



### REMARKS

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97, this statement is being filed:

- ☐ (1) within three (3) months of the Filing Date or **before the mailing date of the First Office Action** on the merits; or
- ☐ (2) within three months of the mailing date of the PCT International Search Report; or
- ☒ (3) after the period defined in (1) but before the mailing date of a **Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance**, and the requisite Certification or fee under Rule 1.17(p), namely **\$180.00**, is included herein; or
- ☐ (4) after the mailing date of a **Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance** but before the payment of the **Issue Fee**, and the requisite Certification, petition, and petition fee are included herein.

It is respectfully requested that each of the documents shown on the attached form(s) PTO-1449 be made of record in this application. Copies of these documents (CHECK ONE):

- ☒ which were not previously disclosed are enclosed herewith; or
- ☐ have been cited in the parent application, and are thus not being resubmitted herein.

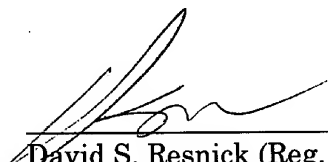
Early examination and allowance of the present application are respectfully solicited.

**FEE AUTHORIZATION**

Should any fees associated with the submission be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the missing fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0850. Any overpayments should be credited to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 17, 2003

  
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